

BRIEFS

NJ MAN FINDS HOMEMADE BOMB UNDER TRUCK

CALDWELL, N.J. (AP)—A Caldwell man leaving for a hunting trip bagged something he wasn't bargaining on—a bomb under his truck with enough power to set his house on fire, authorities said.

Wilbur Brandon, 58, and his son noticed the device under the Chevrolet Blazer at about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. Brandon thought someone was playing a joke and took the device to the police department.

"They got all excited and said I shouldn't be carrying it around. Then I got a little excited myself," Brandon said.

The Brandons, who are black, recently had a fight with a white teen-ager and detectives are investigating whether the incident was racially motivated.

But Caldwell Police Chief John Scapichio said police are not treating it as a bias crime.

Scapichio said the device was a 20-ounce plastic bottle taped together with an M-1000 tracer in between to act as a detonator. The fuse was partially burnt.

The Essex County Sheriff Department's bomb unit used bomb-sniffing dogs to confirm that the substance inside the bottles was an accelerant.

Sheriff Armando Fontoura said it contained enough power to destroy the truck and set fire to the Brandon's home. The only reason it did not ignite was that a string used to extend the fuse burned out prematurely, he said.

Police want to question a teen-ager who recently had a fight with Brandon's 16-year-old son. The *Star-Ledger* reported that he is a suspect in another incident in which an explosive was left near a car.

BLACK EMPLOYEES FILE COMPLAINT AGAINST FOREST SERVICE

COLUMBIA, SC (AP)—About 300 black employees have filed a complaint against the U.S. Agriculture Department's Forest Service, alleging racial discrimination.

The workers claim "a pattern or policy of disparate treatment by management officials—in training, hiring, promotions, awards, recognition and distribution" and other decisions.

The complaint, which names Region 8, originated in South Carolina with employees of the Francis Marion and Sumter national forests offices.

Region 8 includes South Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Puerto Rico.

The workers want the agency to take affirmative action measures to overcome what they call long-standing discriminatory practices.

The complaint was referred to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for consideration for class action lawsuit status, said the workers' lawyer, Gary Brown.

ZIMBABWE TO PASS LAW TO PROTECT HIV-POSITIVE WORKERS

ZIMBABWE, AFRICA—Faced with the predicament of having over one million people with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) that causes AIDS, the Zimbabwe government says it will introduce a code of practice prohibiting any form of discrimination against HIV/AIDS-infected workers. PANA said that the announcement by President Robert Mugabe in his state of the nation address before parliament outlined the code of practice and identified the responsibilities of government, employers and workers.

"In the face of growing unemployment, insecurity and discrimination faced by workers with HIV/AIDS, a national code of practice on AIDS and employment has been drafted through an extensive multi-sectoral consultative process and now awaits gazetting for it to become a statutory instrument to our labor relations act," Mugabe said.

Zimbabwean health authorities say that at least \$4.74 AIDS cases have been recorded since 1985 when the first case was reported in the country. It is estimated that 600,000 children will be orphaned by AIDS by the year 2000.

"Appropriate behavioral change remains the cornerstone of HIV/AIDS prevention and control," he said. "In line with this, education programs emphasizing family values, self-respect and positive cultural practices have been targeted at youths in and out of school, men and women in the workplace and the public at large."



By Jeremie L. Johnson
City News Staff Writer

One Sunday afternoon in 1963, a young Chinese American boy, sat engrossed in the New York Times, reading the story of slain Mississippi Civil Rights Leader, Medgar Evers.

Today that young boy, Ti-Hua Chang, investigative reporter for WNBC-TV in New York City, can say that he played a significant role in helping to bring Medgar Evers' killer, Byron De La Beckwith, to justice—a piece of history that *Ghosts of Mississippi* fails to tell.

According to Chang, on June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers pulled into his Mississippi driveway. As he got out of his car, a shot from a small-arms rifle would leave Evers in a pool of blood. Evers would crawl approximately 40 feet to die in the arms of his wife, Myrlie, as their three children watched in horror.

Hollywood has a history of overstating, mistating and omitting the truth. After all as Chang says, "It's fiction, not fact."

Sharing his story about the 1963 New York Times story at last year's *City News 100 Most Influential* where he was honored for his role in the Evers case, Chang said, "That was the first article that made me feel great pain, emptiness and sadness about how anyone could do that to such a noble person."

In 1990, as an investigative reporter for *Primetime Live*, Chang went to Mississippi to cover the story of De La Beckwith's all-white jury trials, both of which ended in hung juries.

Chang recalls the events surrounding the case: "Early on, Jerry Mitchell who worked for the *Clarion Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi, was sent documents anonymously that indicated that the Mississippi state Sovereignty Commission, a government funded association which supported segregation, had backed the defense of Byron De La Beckwith. 'So what you had was the state operating against the state,' said Chang. Jerry Mitchell published the documents."

"The controversial story soon died down. 'This is subtle,' Chang went on to investigate the double hung jury trials.

Chang recalls: "When I arrived in April 1990, Bobby De Laughter's boss (the prosecutor) said there would be no new trial because there was no new evidence. Also, the gun, the assassination weapon, was missing. 'I found four new witnesses that say Byron De La Beckwith in the church on the night of the assassination.'"

"During the hearings calling for a new trial, the prosecutor showed the *Primetime Live* segment, so as not to put the witnesses' lives in

See GHOSTS/ page 10

Crump calls for ethics and audit committee



Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump

In a memorandum to Donald Bradley, Municipal Council President, Crump called on the Council to support this initiative and recommended that Council members Luis Quintana, Al-Large and Ronald Rice, West Ward serve on the committee with her.

"The primary responsibility of the Ethics and Audit Committee would be to serve as a proactive reviewer of the Council's transactions. With the integrity and credibility of the City being called into question on issues regarding the alleged impropriety of spending

actions, it is important that we set up our own monitoring system," stated Crump.

The committee's objectives are to identify issues arising out of the conduct of Council business that is perceived to be inconsistent with the interest of the citizens of Newark; to take actions to provide clarity on any issues brought forward; to restore public confidence to a significant extent in the conduct of Council business; and to serve as a credible source of information and verification of issues.

It is imperative that the Ethics and Audit Committee have adequate access to resources and information to conduct its inquiries and review. It will be necessary for the Committee to have complete autonomy and be directly responsible only to the City Council. Also, it will serve as the source to verify information.

"Newark risks becoming the 'City That The Nation Loves to Hate' with the image of a 'Municipal Welfare Queen.' This perception cannot go unaddressed. We must do whatever is necessary to reassure the citizens of Newark of the honesty and integrity of the Council. Our constituents are demanding that we be accountable for our actions. I urge the citizens of Newark to work with this committee to ensure that monies are spent wisely and for the betterment of our city," Crump said.

Black managers file suit against Payless Shoes

By Alvin Peabody
Special to the NNPA

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Three Black store managers in the Washington metropolitan area have filed a civil rights action against the Topeka, Kansas-based Payless Shoe Corporation, charging it discriminates in its hiring and promotion practices.

"For too long, we endured discrimination within the workplace," said Eddie Bonner who joined Payless in 1985 at its Cleveland,

Ohio store. "We, as Black managers, have been overlooked for promotions while our white counterparts have been elevated to higher positions."

"Whenever we tried to challenge the system, we were discriminated and retaliated against further by the company," said Bonner, who manages the Payless Shoe Store at Prince George's Place in Maryland. "Yet we can tell you that most of those whites who were hired or promoted over us have either been fired or

See PAYLESS SHOES SUIT/page 3

Affirmative Action battle heats up

by Jeremie L. Johnson

After the Texaco scandal rocked corporate America proving with a \$176 million settlement that racism does exist in the workplace, New Jersey Assembly members are moving to cut affirmative action from bill, A-2533—a measure that Essex County Democratic Senators Richard J. Cooney, Ronald L. Rice, and Wynona M. Lipman took a firm stance against in a press conference last week.

The bill, modeled after California initia-

tive "Proposition 209," seeks to end all "officially sanctioned discrimination based upon characteristics such as race, religion, ethnicity, and national origin, in employment, promotion, school admission and other benefits."

"This bill would set aside the one who could ever upset the old preferences, the old affirmative methods of a wink and a backroom deal that keeps the Senate, where I work, 92 percent white and 98 percent male. And, women are still making 78 percent of what men make on the dollar," said Senator Lipman. Lipman was instrumental in establishing the first Affirmative Action laws in the late

70's and has continued to work on set-aside legislation for minorities and women. Women have made great strides in business due to the state's set-aside programs, says Lipman, a strong advocate for women business ownership.

According to Henry Johnson, publisher of the *Minority Business Journal* of New Jersey and New York, affirmative action is important for the economic health of the cities. Affirmative action has helped to build hope and aspirations for a generation of minority.

See AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/page 3

'Ghosts' distorts real Evers story



Above, Alec Baldwin and Whoopi Goldberg play District Attorney Bobby De Laughter and Myrlie Evers in the *Ghosts of Mississippi*. Left, Ti-Hua Chang, WNBC-TV, investigative reporter who found four crucial witnesses in the De La Beckwith retrial.

What Oakland says about Ebonics
A questions and answers on Ebonics

from the newsletter
of the Rainbow Coalition

Oakland, CA—The following is a portion of an interview published in a newsletter from the Office of the Superintendent in the Oakland Unified School District concerning the decision of the system to train its teachers in Ebonics.

Q: Are you recommending these measures because other programs haven't worked?

A: The policy affirming that every child become proficient in Standard American English is a result of some very alarming statistics presented by the task force which reviewed the district-wide achievement data of African-American students. The data showed:

- low levels of student performance;
- disproportionately high representation in special ed; and,
- under-representation in Advanced Placement courses.

The recommendation and data from the task force, based on academic research, indicated that the unique language pattern of African American students had a direct connection to student achievement. It was evident that students who speak in this language pattern could achieve at higher levels if they were proficient in Standard American English.

Q: By calling Ebonics a national language, aren't you detracting from other methods that address the academic failures of African American students?

A: The real issue is that our children are failing academically. Our goal is to build on the language skills they bring to the classroom, without devailing the students and their diversity. Our plan is to build a bridge from the language pattern the student brings to the classroom to standard English proficiency.

"Extensive research supports the idea that language and learning are directly linked. We want teachers to appreciate and understand

the ebonic language pattern and avoid stigmatizing students who use it.

Q: Is this policy program actually used in the resolution?

A: Yes, it was used in describing the various terms that relate to language patterns that are spoken by many African Americans. The Oakland Unified School District is not replacing the teaching of Standard American English with any other language. We are not teaching Ebonics.

Q: Is this policy recommending segregating students into separate classrooms?

A: Absolutely not—that is a misconception. What we do intend to ensure that every child in our school system becomes literate in writing, speaking and reading Standard American English.

Q: Many people believe that recognizing this language pattern stigmatizes students?

A: What we are proposing is an education strategy for the 21st century. Extensive research supports the idea that language and learning are directly linked. We want teachers to recognize and understand the language pattern and avoid stigmatizing students who use it. We cannot ignore the findings indicating that language has a direct relationship to achievement. By recognizing this fact and putting a policy in place we can indeed change the outcome for students.

Q: How do you plan to fund this program?

A: Our plan is to use existing funds in new ways. We already have teachers who have been trained in these strategies. These concepts will be integrated into the standard English proficiency training. We are not asking for extra funds to implement this policy. **Q: Ebonics is inner city broken English. Why not focus on teaching the right way without bringing up the issue of where it comes from?**

A: What we are doing in Oakland is providing our teachers and parents with the tools they need to address the diverse languages our children bring into the classroom. **See EBONICS Q&A/page 3**

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

JANUARY 17

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 10 a.m. and a regular meeting at 2 p.m. For additional information, please call (908) 431-7387.

JANUARY 9, 16, 23 & 30

NEW YORK, NY—Barnes & Noble celebrates "New Beginnings: A Month of Growth" each Thursday. Featuring Forest Church, Tobias Jungles, Liz Neponet & Faye Wattison. All events are free and open to the public. For more information call (212) 727-4810.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

NEW BRUNSWICK—Cleveland Signage Theatre presents the beloved children's classic, "Winnie the Pooh" at 2:00 pm. & 4:00 pm. For more information call (908) 240-7469.

MONDAY, JANUARY 13 - MAY 12

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer an on-line graduate course, "Using the Internet in Education." To register, call (201) 620-3088.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14-23

NEWARK—The Newark Literacy Campaign is seeking VOLUNTEERS to become READING PARTNERS for adults, teenagers and children. Training and orientation begins 1/14, for more information call (201) 623-4001.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

JERSEY CITY—The Media Arts Dept. at the Jersey City Public Library's Five Corners Branch, 678 Newark Ave., will present The Belle of Amherst, a play based on the life of Emily Dickinson at 1 pm. For more information call (201) 547-4546.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

JERSEY CITY—Scholar and author Dr. James Washington will deliver the keynote address at the eighth annual MLK Jr. Memorial Breakfast at Jersey City State College beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the multipurpose room of the Michael Gilligan Student Union Bldg. 2038 Kennedy Blvd. For more information call (201) 200-3524.

JANUARY 16

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 p.m. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

FOR THE FEBRUARY 11, 1997 SPECIAL NEWARK ELECTION

Citizens may register to vote

at office of the commissioner of registration and superintendent of elections

33 Washington Street, 1st Floor, Newark, New Jersey

Daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday)
Monday, January 13, 1997 (8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

and

The Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, 920 Broad Street, room B-9, Newark, New Jersey
Daily 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, January 13, 1997 (8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

Last day to register is January 13, 1997 for the February 11, 1997 SPECIAL NEWARK ELECTION

Dated: January 8, 1997

Robert P. Marasco
City Clerk
Newark, New Jersey

YOUR resolution solution

THE YMCA



With our state-of-the-art Cardiovascular Fitness Center... complete lines of CBEX, Nautilus and free weights... a four lane indoor heated pool... and over 35 FREE fitness classes per week... the Newark Y is the place to be when it comes to realizing your health and fitness goals.

Our personal trainers will develop a personalized work-out program that will get you the results you're looking for... and our convenient hours, safe secure location, and family friendly atmosphere make us a place you'll look forward to coming back to! We offer a variety of affordable memberships with flexible payment plans that make taking the first steps in making your resolution for better health and fitness a reality.

For more information, call (201) 596-8815, or better yet, stop by for a free tour of our facility at 600 Broad Street, Newark, N.J. 07102.

Bring this ad and you can enjoy your first New Year's Resolution workout for free!

Alice Goines wins NJ Transit outstanding achievement award

NJ Transit Executive Director Shirley A. DeLibero presents the agency's Outstanding Achievement Award for 1996 to Alice Goines of Newark, of MBL Life Assurance Corporation in Newark. Goines was honored for guiding the corporation's participation in NJ TRANSIT's Business Pass program.



Valley Healthcare announces new medical staff coordinator



EAST ORANGE—East Orange General Hospital has announced the appointment of Denise Gordon as the new Medical staff coordinator. Previously, Mrs. Gordon served as Medical Staff Coordinator at United Hospital. Mrs. Gordon's role involves overseeing the continuing Medical Education Program. In addition, she will oversee the processing of Medical Staff applications and re-appointments. She will also serve as a liaison to departments involving physician related issues. Mrs. Gordon lives in East Orange with her husband and two children. She is a member of the Love of Jesus Family Church in Orange.

Fort Monmouth employees host youth party

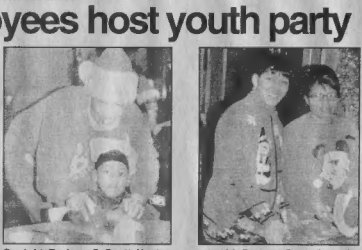


Santa Claus presents toys and gifts to Edward Taylor, a Headstart Center child. The Christmas Party is coordinated by the employee Union and was held at the Fort Monmouth Officers' Club for over 150 children from Headstart Center in Monmouth County. Many groups and organizations at Fort Monmouth, such as the MENTORS, sponsored the children and host them at the party.

United National Bank, Bridgewater, NJ, announced that Nathaniel C. Harris, Jr. of Orange, has joined the Bank as senior vice president and CRA officer. In his new position, Mr. Harris heads the Bank's Community Relations Department. He is responsible for ascertaining the needs of the communities served by United National and developing programs to meet those needs. Mr. Harris holds a bachelor's degree from Hampton University and an MBA degree from Pace University. He most recently served as senior vice president of community development for NatWest Bank.



PLAINFIELD—Employees of United National Bank recently dressed 150 teddy bears for children and delivered them to six hospitals throughout Somerset, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Union and Warren counties. Twenty-five bears were presented to Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. Pictured from left to right are Pamela Rieger, Nurse Manager, Pediatrics; Janet Edelman and Natalie Buzzy, both Registered Nurses; and from United National Bank, Helena Alparone, Assistant Vice President; Brian Stanley, Vice President & Loan Officer; and Linda Hawkins-Todman, Assistant Vice President & Branch Manager of the Park Avenue Office.



On right, Barbara G. Scott, Neptune, poses with Gregory Oxner for the Joseph E. Taylor Headstart Center in Asbury Park. Scott is treasurer of the MENTORS, the Fort Monmouth Chapter of Blacks in Government. The MENTORS sponsored Oxner for the party, and provided numerous toys and gifts which were presented to him by Santa Claus. On left, Stacy Holland, left, and Julia Staughter, of the Black Employment Program wrap gifts for the Christmas party.

Join The 100 Most Influential. Honor those who help to build the black community



invites you to nominate your candidate for the



Second Annual 100 Most Influential Award

Event: May 1, 1997

For information call 908-754-3400

(Please only use official nomination form below)

Recognizing the 100 Most Influential who have fostered the progress of black people or the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers

You must use this form or one from City News to nominate a person for the 100 Most Influential. You must identify yourself and a phone number where you can be reached. The 2nd Annual 100 Most Influential will be held May 1, 1997.

Nomination Form

All information is confidential. Deadline is February 1, 1997.

Nominee's name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Business phone _____ Fax _____

Briefly describe why you feel your nominee has contributed significantly to the progress of black people in New Jersey or to the rebuilding of New Jersey's urban centers.



For information call (908) 754-3400

EDITORIAL

Elected Officials must rebuild public trust

As we enter a new year and race toward the end of a decade, African Americans are growing increasingly weary of their elected officials. Much of their anger is centered around the lack of progress they see due to the inability of their elected officials to put personal gain and ego aside in order to create a common improvement in their communities.

The public is tired of the constant bickering at the expense of community. They are tired of the greed, ego maniacs and big spenders. The electorate is turned off and showing it by not participating in the process, demonstrated by lower voter turnout and apathy toward government. Elected officials have not kept the public trust and are creating an incredible sense of hopelessness. Too often the excuse is, "it's all a part of politics and everybody else is doing it." Whatever excuse is given does not change the fact, the behavior of too many elected officials is eroding public confidence and could give rise to an increasing trend toward cynicism and violence. Too often in discussions with some elected officials, the simple response is, "if people are tired of us why do we keep getting elected," asking the questions, as though they doubt public contempt. Well, it is time for elected officials to tune in. Listening to what the public is not saying may be the first step for public officials. The great majority of the public is not talking to you at all. They are turning away. It is up to you to rebuild the public trust.

Commentary

The truth about ebonics

By John William Templeton
Special to the NTPA

The coverage of the Oakland School Board's decision to embrace the Standard English Proficiency program districtwide is an example of "straw-man journalism."

Some reporters have pulled a "petra" on high-ranking state and federal officials by either embracing the district "teaching Black English." Betrayed by their ignorance of the linguistic and sociolinguistic issues involved, these officials have issued truly lousy statements.

Since 1991, it has been a policy of the State Board of Education to recognize Ebonics, the synchronization of African and European languages, while designing curriculum strategies. Dr. Ernie Smith, a Southern California linguist, developed the term and the research behind the findings. Dr. Noma Lomax put the theory to work in Los Angeles with the Language Development Program for African-American Students, which has been in effect in dozens of Los Angeles schools for more than five years.

Like many who hear a snap characterization of "Black English," I was somewhat skeptical of the concept before hearing Dr. Lomax explain it. Simply, the primary human language acquisition occurs before age four. Any language learning after that has to occur on the foundation of that original language acquisition. A French person who learns English still thinks in French. The language patterns common to African-American communities across the Western Hemisphere, whether expressed in

English, French, Spanish or Dutch, carry a common set of grammar and syntax rules that are traced to the languages of the Niger-Congo region of Africa. Those patterns are not just incorrect English, but an intentional retention of that culture.

The language patterns common to African-American communities across the Western Hemisphere, whether expressed in English, French, Spanish or Dutch, carry a common set of grammar and syntax rules that are traced to the languages of the Niger-Congo region of Africa.

Ebonics is far more than standard use of "to be" and combining consonants. It is also the magical use of simile and metaphor, the mastery of inflection and tone and the persuasive qualities that have made people like Paul Robeson, Sidney Poitier, Mary McLeod Bethune, W.E.B. DuBois and Martin Luther King Jr. some of the country's greatest orators.

As teachers learn more about Ebonics, they not only gain a better understanding of their students but can show students how to turn those cultural attributes into strengths. The state of California and the federal government have been funding the research that has gleaned these simple truths for two decades. As long as a few academics banded the theories about, no one cared. But programs like Dr. Lomax's have discovered that the targeted children do learn standard English better when taught this way. Oakland teachers have piloted the Oakland English Proficiency program, often at their own expense for three years, attending conferences, doing their own ad-hoc in-service and sharing their results with whoever would listen. The decision to adopt their strategies on a district-wide basis is an object lesson in school reform—not fodder for talk-show hosts.

People like Delaine Eastin, the superintendent of schools, who automatically attach lower standards with "Black" do not set foot in these schools where parents and teachers and students are tackling the problems and curriculum that do not meet their needs. Black parents particularly are fed up with the "soul murder" being committed on their youngsters before they even reach the fourth grade. If school choice and parental input are meaningful concepts, then these programs that are nurturing a difference must be nurtured, refined and duplicated. It is time to stop the systematic demoralization that Carter G. Woodson, father of Negro History Week, wrote about in 1931 in "The Miseducation of the Negro." I would urge any critic of the Oakland program to read that book first before commenting on the program.

What do you think about Ebonics? Send to: CN Op/Ed, PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07061

by Askia Muhammad
Capitol Hill Columnist

Like most people in America, when I first heard of the Ebonics debate, I wanted no part in encouraging what seemed to be simple slang, a sub-standard form of the Queen's English.

Then, I listened, I read, and I pondered. I heard the late night comedians, denigrating black people, wholesale over the concept. "I listened...I'm mad."

Sure enough, the other evening, when my wife and I drove another new grandmother home from visiting the maternity ward, the woman informed us, "I'm gon' my slushhouse."

Amazingly, I understood that she had just said in Ebonics, she'd like to go to her sister's residence, instead of her own.

I read that Dr. Tony Martin, Wesley College history professor

said, "Black students should be encouraged to master standard English without feeling ashamed of 'Black English.'" It is not uncommon, he said, for societies in the English-speaking world to have different regional dialects.

English spoken in Scotland, for example, is very different from the cockney spoken in London, or the pidgin in the Caribbean. English itself, Professor Martin maintains, is comprised of words borrowed from Latin, French, and even African languages. Words like banana, algebra, mascara, and magazine, are all taken from Arabic, for example.

Ebonics, "sounds like English because it's using the English vocabulary," said Dr. Aisha Blackshire-Belay, Chair of the Department of African Studies at Indiana State University. "It's a grammatical structure is African. It has been retained over generations and generations."

"Hmmm," I thought, "English vocabulary, African grammar. That's an interesting concept."

Saving our sisters

By Larry Lucas

Recently, I participated in a forum held by the Congressional Black Caucus. The subject was one that's important to me personally, and I'm sure it's important to all of you: the health of African-American women.

Saving our sisters—and our wives, daughters, mothers, grandmothers and aunts—is a goal we can all applaud. And when we're talking about African-American women, the need is urgent. Look at some of the numbers:

- African-American women between the ages of 35 and 74 are twice as likely to die of a heart attack than white women in the same age group.
- African-American women are 86 percent more likely to die of stroke than white women.

- In the 1990s, 14 times as many African-American women have been

diagnosed with AIDS than white women.

- Black women are more than twice as likely as white women to die of breast cancer.

Fortunately, pharmaceutical companies are researching and testing new medicines for the diseases of African-American women. There are currently 197 medicines in development for heart disease and stroke, 110 for AIDS, and 48 for cancer, to name just a few. All together, U.S. pharmaceutical companies will spend nearly \$16 billion this year looking for cures for these and other diseases.

As our companies look for and develop new medicines for a wide variety of diseases, we learn a great

Black women are more than twice as likely as white women to die of breast cancer.

Property tax unfair to seniors and cities

by Jim Florio

holdings, but that's not the case now.

Our state relies more than any other, on real estate taxes for financing local and county government, and elementary and secondary education. The system's unfairness is known to all. Those who are on fixed incomes or whose wages fail to rise in an amount equal to ever-rising property taxes, are constantly informed of the system's inequity.

The evils of this regressive levy go beyond hardship to individuals. Our business find themselves at a competitive disadvantage with companies in other states that have modernized their tax systems to eliminate, or minimize, reliance on the property tax. In a similar vein, New Jersey's continued use of the system has resulted in pervasive growth patterns that have caused suburban sprawl, with all the traffic congestion, environmental damage, and inconvenience associated with unplanned development.

The flip side of suburban sprawl and equally attributable to our tax system is urban deterioration, and our failure to revitalize our cities whose oppressively high property taxes effectively prohibit serious re-development efforts.

The "irritable chaos" phenomenon is known to all local officials. It is the understandable quest by mayors and council people to provide property tax relief to their constituents by competing for new projects and development to expand the property tax taxable base. The difficulty is that the new developments themselves require services and infrastructure the cost of which, be they roads, sewage systems or school, have to be paid for by further increasing property taxes. The image of the dog chasing its tail comes to mind.

The most current example of the social pathologies caused by the tax on real estate is the public school funding crisis we are currently in, and have been in for twenty years. The New Jersey Supreme Court has held on numerous occasions that our system is unconstitutional and unfair in relying on municipal property tax wealth to determine the quality of our children's education.

The never-ending struggle over educational funding points out the

Then I remembered reading about the debate over the codification of Swahili, that took place 40 or so years ago. Even though Swahili had been the lingua franca of East Africa commerce for more than 1,000 years, with its Bantu roots and rich admixtures of Arabic, its legitimacy was called into question because it was never written until the middle of the 20th Century.

Eventually, a decision was taken to record this Bantu-Arabic vocabulary and purely African grammar in the "Roman," rather than the Arabic alphabet. A decision which pleased Americans and Europeans.

So, I decided to be more generous in my opinion of Ebonics.

Didn't Paul Laurence Dunbar, the Black American poet who was the first to win acclaim for writing in the "Negro dialect," didn't Paul Laurence Dunbar compose in what would now be called Ebonics?

Besides, if Ebonics is anything like Gospel Music, which slaves created out of their desperate passion to

worship; if it's anything like the Blues, which sharecroppers created out of work songs and field shouts and hollers; if it's anything like Jazz which King Oliver and Louis Armstrong created out of Dixieland

If it's anything like Scott Joplin's influence on Ragtime; if it's anything like Be-Bop, which Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie created out of Swing; or anything like Rhythm and Blues which Chuck Berry and Little Richard created out of Pop; or HipHop which Grand Master Flash created out of Jazz Fusion and Rock and Roll, I think, if Ebonics has half the future of those great American sounds, and the verbal language that accompanied them to the forefront, then I think I want to hear more of it before I condemn it.

What do you think about Ebonics?
Send to: CN Op/Ed,
PO Box 1774,
Plainfield, NJ 07061

SPEAK OUT

- Congress should also overhaul the tort system. Lottery-like punitive damage awards claim the incentives for research. High-risk products women need is the chief casualty. For example, one company stopped research on a vaccine for preventing the transmission of the AIDS virus from infected mothers to unborn children. The reason: concerns about lawsuits.

- Congress should make sure that women—all women—have access to the medicines their physicians think would work best for them, as individuals. Different people respond to medicines in different ways, and some of these differences are due to racial and ethnic factors. Whether patients are in Medicaid or private managed-care plans, they should have access to the most appropriate medicines.

For a free copy of the *Health Guides on heart disease, stroke, breast cancer, mental illness or menopause*, write to: PABMA, 1100 15th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

fulity, if not the folly, of marginally tinkering at the edges of our over-dependence on property taxes. Facing up to the need for fundamental fiscal restructuring in New Jersey is long overdue. A proposal worthy of serious consideration to do that, might take the following form.

The legislature should place on the ballot in the Gubernatorial Election in 1997 a referendum question that would say, "New Jersey should no longer rely upon local property taxes to fund public education. YES or NO?" At the same time, the legislature can authorize the Governor-elect immediately after the November election, should the voters approve the question, to appoint a commission to report back in 90 days the various options and alternatives for operating the school system.

The virtue of this proposal is that the people of the state will have the

opportunity to be engaged in the process of deciding whether the property tax status quo is maintained. If they choose, as I suspect they will, to scrap our system and thereby get a 50% property tax decrease, that mandate will be clear to the incoming Governor and legislature.

The newly elected leaders taking office in January 1997 will certainly not have an easy job in restructuring our state finances. The task, however, will have the imprint of popular authority to give it legitimacy, and ultimate approval. On a more pragmatic note, a public referendum on this issue is the only way we will change the current intolerable system.

New Jersey's fundamental problem has not been taxation; it has been unfair taxation. Elimination of our over-reliance on property taxes, the most onerous tax levied on all, would be a giant step in the right direction.

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BRIEFS

PLAINFIELD INSTALLS NEW COUNCIL

January 1, marked the first of new terms for public officials. In Plainfield, Al McWilliams, will serve as the new councilman at large; Malcolm Dunn, as 3rd ward councilman; and Joseph Montgomery for 2nd and 3rd councilman at large.

Montgomery upset incumbent Councilwoman Helen Miller in last spring's democratic primary and later, as an independent in the November election.

PLAINFIELD MAYOR ANNOUNCES ECONOMIC PLAN

A Plan for Plainfield: An Economic Development Strategy, a new economic development plan, announced by Mayor Mark Fury, includes: making the Strand Theater a feasible community cultural center, attracting a major supermarket to the City, assessing several sites for neighborhood based family recreation and entertainment facilities, determining proper use for Plainfield train station, assessing a site for an industrial park, developing the Macy's building into a Government Center Office Complex and stabilizing several neighborhood commercial centers.

Fury cites past accomplishments including the Netherwood Train Station Redevelopment Project, the South Avenue Corridor Revitalization Project, the Plainfield Civic Center, and 30 new and expanding businesses as proof of increased investment over the last year.

"High quality employment opportunities, more tax rates and higher property values, improved infrastructure, a more highly educated and skilled workforce, better public services, and greater access to capital for the City's residents and businesses, these are the kinds of things that economic development activities can achieve...That is the vision" said Mayor Mark Fury.

ELIZABETH

In Elizabeth, Mayor J. Christian Bollwage was sworn in for a second term.

Two new proposals announced by Bollwage: "Clean streets Attract visitors, Renew neighborhoods and Energize Elizabeth" program, known as Care; and the Safenet Program, that will help to clean-up and make the city safer.

EAST ORANGE

The next regular meeting of the City of East Orange will take place at January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Englewood

Roberta Flack headlines State MLK celebration

The New Jersey Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Commission will hold its 12th Annual Commemorative Birthday Celebration Sunday, January 12, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. at the John Harms Center for the Arts in Englewood, NJ.

This year's celebration will feature Grammy award winning songwriter and vocalist Flack, as well as the Nai-Ni-Chan Dance Company, performing traditional and modern works based on Chinese themes. Returning this year will be actor Craig Alan Edwards, who is known for his stunning soliloquies from his noted play about King's life, *The Man in Room 304*.

The New Jersey Martin Luther King Jr. Commission is a division of the New Jersey Department of State. "This celebration is designed to entertain, educate and invigorate," Secretary of State Lorna K. Hooks said.

A special feature this year will be the recognition of the students from the Belmont-Runyon school of Newark and the Martha B. Day school of Bloomdale. These schools participated in a unique pen pal program which served as an effective means of opening the lines of communications between these two diverse student bodies. The MLK Commission will also honor the "Teen Leadership Program." This is an effort that brought together African American and Jewish teenagers through shared involvement in various social action and civic projects.

The program is free to the public, but due to space limitations, reservations must be made by calling (609) 777-2923.

Essex County officials fight for stadium

NEWARK, NJ—Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Essex County Executive Joseph Dreifinger, Freeholder President Joseph DiVincenzo and Newark Councilman and Freeholder-Elect Henry Martinez joined forces today to reiterate their strong support of the planned \$22 million baseball / soccer stadium project proposed for the East Ward's Riverbank Park.

The Newark City Council will set February 11 as the date voters will decide the matter.

Recently, City Clerk Robert Marasco validated a petition signed by over 3,200 residents opposed to siting the project at the Riverbank Park location. Initiated by the Save the Riverfront Park Coalition, the document calls for a citywide public referendum on the joint Newark-Essex County proposal. James called the special election, which will cost Newark taxpayers between \$250,000 and \$500,000, "a terrible waste." The Mayor said the stadium is the "most important project for Newark in the last decade," and asked, "Who could be against affordable family entertainment? It's a win-win situation for all the citizens of Newark and Essex County."

County Executive Dreifinger added, "The people of Newark and all of Essex County will benefit from this state-of-the-art recreational facility and from the economic benefit it will bring."

Who could oppose the improvement of a deteriorating facility? James questioned, "This state-of-the-art sports facility would mean the addition of a new, much needed recreational resource, the creation of construction jobs and permanent employment, and the worthy use of leisure time for the young and old."

To assist in transporting fans to the site, James said that the Public Service Electric and Gas Company is planning to provide busses to ferry



Newark Mayor Sharpe James

people between Don's 21 on McCarter Highway and the recreational complex.

The City/County project calls for a 6000-seat minor league baseball stadium and a separate 6000-seat soccer stadium to be built at the Riverbank Park site, a 10-acre tract of land. City officials pointed out that the park is currently closed because of contaminants found at the site. As part of the sports facility initiative, a new park would be built at a nearby site and contain new public fields, tennis and basketball courts and recreational equipment.

East Ward Councilman and Freeholder-Elect Henry Martinez agreed with the Mayor's assessment of the situation. "One of the most gorgeous projects to come to the City is so hold," Martinez said.

Without the project, Martinez said, the park will remain in disrepair, and it could cost millions of dollars to abate the contamination. In addition, the stadium project would boost Newark's economy by adding jobs.

James added, "Here we are fighting for Newark's real identity as a Renaissance City with substantive improvement in public safety, housing, cultural offerings and recreation, and now we are debating the obvious economic boom the stadium would bring, along with real job creation. What an act of hypocrisy!"

Should colleges prohibit 'hate speech'?

East Orange High to join Lincoln-Douglas debate

EAST ORANGE, NJ—Does freedom of expression and the American ideal of free speech include permitting the public expression of hate speech on college campuses? Public high school students statewide will be researching this question and developing their debating strategies as they prepare for the sixth annual Chace Lincoln-Douglas Debate Competition. The topic for 1997 is, "Resolved: that colleges and universities have a moral obligation to prohibit the public expression of 'hate speech' on their campuses."

More than 150 students and coaches from over 40 public high schools attended the recent launch of the 1997 program at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison. Paula Rothenberg, Director, The New Jersey Project, Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies at William Paterson College, spoke to the students on the affirmative side of the topic. Ronald Chen, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Rutgers Law School.

Newark, Vice President and Trustee for American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey (ACLU), addressed the negative. Each speaker offered compelling facts and arguments for opposing views. These included celebrating diversity, the concept of respect as a core value, and the view of hate speech as a form of verbal assault and our heritage of free speech.

The students participating in the day-long 1997 Chace Lincoln-Douglas Debate competition will debate



Listen up! Dr. Michael Goodman, (far left) Fairleigh Dickinson University, and Gene Coladara, vice president, (far right) The Chace Manhattan Bank, discuss the 1997 topic of banning hate speech, with (left to right) Taneia Wright, 16, junior; Philomena Guyre, East Orange High School debate coach; and students Azalia Figueroa, 16, junior; and Shivonne Matthew, 15, junior.

both the affirmative and negative viewpoints.

Inspired by the famous 1858 Illinois senate debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas, the Chace program is designed to enhance students' communication, research, and analytical thinking and team building skills. Unlike the usual one-on-one debate format, each participating school fields a team of three in either the experienced or inexperienced tier, thus allowing more students the opportunity to participate.

The statewide competition through semi-finals will be a day-

long event held on May 19, 1997 at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison. The finals will be held later that month at New Jersey Network's television studio in Trenton and then broadcast in prime time shortly thereafter.

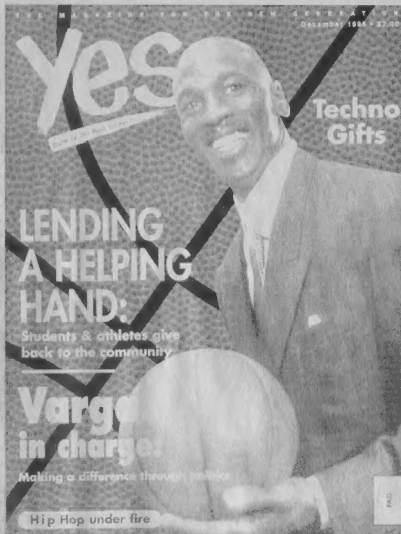
Awards range from a \$50 savings bond for each participating student to \$100 in cash as well as monetary awards for the schools.

The competition is open to all public high schools in New Jersey. For a free informative videotape, or to register, call Christine Rapp at (201) 599-6727.

Foundation seeks descendants of U.S. Colored Troops

After generations of neglect, a great historical wrong is being righted. Proper recognition is finally being paid to the forgotten soldiers and seamen of the Civil War, and the African Americans who fought valiantly for their freedom. Organizers of the African-American Civil War Memorial have already located more than one thousand descendants, and are seeking more of the two million descendants of the U.S. Colored Troops. It may be possible that you are a descendant of a Civil War Soldier...How can you find out? You should begin by talking to the eldest members of your family. If there are former Civil War soldiers in your family, you should take that information to local archives and search through the military records and/or search the pension records. All descendants that can prove that their ancestor(s) served in the Union Army of the Civil War, with copies of official documentation that includes the name of the soldier or sailor, rank and regiment, will be invited to attend the commemorative ceremony as special guests. The annual wreath laying event takes place at the Arlington Amphitheater on Thursday, Oct. 23, 1997. For more information please call (202) 665-2667.

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Celebrating King at Crossroads

BUF and Fleet sponsor 'The Meeting'

EAST ORANGE—The Black United Front of New Jersey, an independent Black philanthropic organization headquartered in East Orange, will host a Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Benefit at the Crossroads Theatre, January 19, 1996.

This Fleet Bank sponsored benefit marks the premier performance of "The Meeting" at the Crossroads Theatre, 7 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick. Jeff Stetson's eloquent and provocative play depicts the imaginary encounter between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X in a Harlem hotel room. "The Meeting" will be presented in two special performances at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Ticket prices for the benefit performances are \$50.00. A select number of tickets are available at \$100.00 and include a V.I.P. reception.

For information and ticket locations call: BUF Headquarters, (201) 676-5283 or the BUF Center, (908) 561-0123.

AT&T Cares builds homes

NEWARK, N.J.—For one week, from November 21-27, AT&T employees across the nation launched a company-wide volunteer program called AT&T Cares.

Employees who participate in this year-long program will receive one paid day off from November 21, 1996 through December 31, 1997, to work on the community service project of their choice. Those who give at least 50 hours of service to a cause can apply for a \$250 donation from AT&T.

On November 21, employees in Newark, New Jersey, demonstrated just how much AT&T cares when they gathered at a local Habitat for Humanity site.

Habitat for Humanity is a nationwide program that makes the dream of homeownership a reality for thousands of low-income families.

In addition to a \$25,000 contribution from AT&T, dozens of employees hammered the day away to help build the frame of one house, while others lugged six-foot worth of cinderblock that will be used to create walls for another house.



Pictured, from left to right, are AT&T's chairman, Robert E. Allen, with future homeowner, Tina Garner, who will move into her new house in April. Since that day, other groups of AT&T employees have volunteered their time and energy to ensure that Garner's house will be ready.

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GLORY STORIES

Good Taste For The Table. Good Taste For The Soul



THE HALFTIME SHOW

Superbowls come and go, but a great Superbowl party is remembered year after year. Before the televisions are strategically placed around the room and the furniture rearranged for optimum viewing pleasure, the first point of business is planning the menu.

Although many hosts have favorite dishes that they prepare annually, the most successful parties incorporate a good variety of finger foods conveniently placed within arms reach. There also needs to be a unifying main dish that fills the void of hunger, yet still leaves room for munchies. This part of the meal we call the halftime show.

Although Superbowl sponsors do a good job of attracting entertainers to perform during halftime, the best entertainment is the spread on your buffet table.

We have some recipes in this column that are guaranteed crowd pleasers. As the main attraction at halftime,

we suggest our Veggie Chili made

with Glory Foods

Pre-Seasoned Pinto Beans, Glory Foods Pre-Seasoned Field Peas and Glory Foods Pre-Seasoned Great Northern Beans. Topped with diced tomatoes, grated cheese and sour cream, this chili will satisfy everyone. For finger foods we offer Glory Foods Jalapeno Cornbread Sticks, Glorified Wings and Glory's Fat-Free Spicy Clam Dip. The cornbread sticks are

an excellent accompaniment for the chili and can be made mild or as spicy as you dare. The wing recipe allows you to prepare the chicken wings in the oven, making clean-up a breeze. For the calorie conscious, serve our dip with vegetables, as well as chips.

We cannot help with the television set-up or the furniture moves, but we can get you out of the kitchen faster

so that you will have more time to entertain your guests and cheer your team to victory. May the best team win.

VEGGIE CHILI

Ingredients

Glory Foods
Field Peas..... 2 Cans
Pinto Beans..... 2 Cans
Great Northern Beans..... 2 Cans
Oil..... 2 Tbl
Onion (Chopped)..... 1 Large
Stewed Tomatoes..... 1-28 oz. can
Tomato Paste..... 1-6 oz. can
Chili Powder..... 2 Tbl
Cumin..... 1 Tbl
(optional-double chili powder)
Garlic Powder..... 1 Tbl
Salt and Pepper..... To Taste

Method

1. Cook onion in oil until soft. Add remaining ingredients and allow to simmer 1/2 hour.
2. Season with salt and pepper. If you prefer spicier chili,

add peppers initially to oil.
Yields 12-15 Servings

GLORIFIED WINGS

Ingredients

Glory Foods Hot Sauce..... 6 oz.
Chicken Wings..... 3 lbs.
Garlic Powder..... 1 tsp.
Cayenne Pepper..... 1 tsp.
Salt..... 1 tsp.
Poultry Seasoning..... 1/2 tsp.
Butter or Margarine..... 4 Tbl. or 1/2 stick
Chili Powder..... 1 tsp.

Method

1. Separate wings into 3 pieces, discarding the tip or save for soup flavoring.
2. Sprinkle with garlic, cayenne, salt and poultry seasoning and toss to coat evenly. Bake in a 350 degree oven until done.
3. In a sauce pan combine remaining ingredients and heat. Toss cooked wings in mixture and serve immediately.
Yields about 40 Pieces

JALAPENO CORNBREAD STICKS

Ingredients

Glory Foods Corn Muffin Mix..... 1 Pkg.
Pickled Jalapenos (Chopped)..... 2 Tbl.

Method

1. Prepare according to package directions and add the finely chopped jalapenos. Bake in a corn stick pan according to package directions.
Yields 12 Cornbread Sticks

GLORIOUSLY FAT-FREE SPICY CLAM DIP

Ingredients

Glory Foods Hot Sauce..... 2 Tbls.
Fat-Free Sour cream..... 2 Cups
Fat-Free Cream Cheese..... 2 Cups
(Room Temperature)..... 1 Cup (8 oz.)
Minced Clams (Drained)..... 2-6 1/2 oz. Cans
Lemon Juice (Fresh)..... 1 Tbl
Seasoned Salt..... 2 tsp.
Garlic Powder..... 1/4 tsp.
Onion Powder..... 1/4 tsp.
Ground White Pepper..... 1/4 tsp.
(Substitute Black Pepper)

Method

1. With a hand mixer, soften cream cheese. Add sour cream and mix until smooth.
2. Add remaining ingredients to sour cream mixture and mix by hand with a spoon. Refrigerate until needed.
Yields approximately 3 1/2 Cups.

For questions or comments, write to Glory Foods, Inc.,
Post Office Box 328948, Columbus, OH 43232

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asoned side dishes, you can give your family a quick, delicious meal that delivers the taste of yesterday's down-home cooking today!

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them and eat them. Now we know the best food you've ever tasted will always be your Mom's, but Glory Foods' real good, feel good, down-home flavor comes so close, it's just about the best!

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Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Turnip Greens, Mixed Greens and Kale Greens. Delicately seasoned Field Peas, Field Peas with Snaps, Blackeye Peas, Butter Beans, Lima Beans, Pinto Beans, Great Northern Beans, String Beans, String Beans and Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes and Cut Okra. Complement your meal with Glory's Hot Sauce, Peppercorn Vinegar and moist, delicious Homestyle Corn Bread Mix and Golden Corn Muffin Mix.

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THROUGH MARCH 23

NEW YORK—The Museum of the City of New York, Inc. presents "Back in the Days: East Harlem Old and Young," a New York City Community Gallery Exhibition. For more info call 212-534-1672.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8-21

NEW YORK, NY—Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. presents the unveiling of two newly commissioned posters by Jacob Lawrence and Joel Shapiro. For more information call (212) 875-5391.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12 - FEB. 23

CLINTON—Hurlerton Art Center presents a multimedia exhibition of works of Art 3 - 5 pm. For more information call (908) 735-8415.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

SOUTH AMBOY—Will Downing will perform at Club Bene, Rt. 35, at 8 and 10 p.m. Call 908-727-3000.

JANUARY 17 - MARCH 20

NEW YORK—"Romare Bearden in Black and White: Photomontage Projections 1964" will be on view at the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, 120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street. For more information call 212-570-7722.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18 - FEB. 16

NEW BRUNSWICK—Theatre Co. presents "The Meeting" by Jeff Sisson. This play depicts the meeting of Malcolm X and Dr. Martin L. King in a Harlem hotel room.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

SOUTH AMBOY—Comedian Joe Souty will bring his off the wall sense to Club Bene, Rt. 35 at 9:00 p.m. Call 908-727-3000 for more info.

50 Years of African-American Art at Katonah Museum

KATONAH, NY—A few weeks ago, the White House added to its collection the first time painting by an African-American artist. The landscape, "Sand Dunes at Sunset, Atlantic City" by Henry Ossawa Tanner, will hang in the Green Room. That it took one and a half centuries to include work by a black artist in this national collection does not come as a surprise. For years, art by African-American artists has been under-appreciated, and America, for the most part, has known little about the black men and women who contributed to its visual heritage.

Revisiting American Art: Works from Historically Black Colleges and Universities presents a survey of outstanding African-American painting, sculpture, and graphic art from the 1920s, the decade during which an African-American presence in the visual arts emerged, to the early 1970s, when, in the aftermath of the civil rights movement, greater attention was paid from the established art world. Over sixty paintings, works on paper, and sculptures from the collections of historically black colleges and universities created by more than 40 of the most significant black artists

Bust of a Negro Woman by Augusta Savage at Katonah

of the 20th century will be on view at the Museum from January 12-March 16, 1997.

This exhibition celebrates the creativity, courage, and legacy of the men and women who produced the art," says Nancy Wallace, Museum project director. "We also address the role that historically black colleges and universities had in supporting and encouraging African-American artists, and in collecting their work."

Remarkably, African-American artists are scarcely found in American art history books. Surveys of early 20th-century American art make no mention of the Harlem Renaissance, others mention only Jacob Lawrence.

Among those artists represented in the show are: Richmond Barthé, Jacob Lawrence, James Porter, Aaron Douglas, Beauford Delaney, William H. Johnson, Benny Andrews, Norma Morgan, Norman Lewis, Charles Alston, Archibald John Motley, Jr., Romare Bearden, Hale Woodruff, Lois Mailou Jones, and Augusta Savage. Varied in style and content, works by these artists cover a wide range of subjects that include portraiture, genre scenes, religious paintings, historical narrative paintings, works that comment on the political climate of the day, and large, colorful abstractions.

Cheers at the 'The Amen Corner'



CHEERS! More than 250 guests gathered at Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick to attend the Opening Night Gala Reception for James Baldwin's classic gospel play, "The Amen Corner." The VIP reception was sponsored by Pineau des Charentes. VIPs were invited to sample Pineau des Charentes between acts and after the performance. Discovered during the 18th century, Pineau des Charentes is a blend of wine and aged Cognac. "The Amen Corner" stars actress Phyllis Yvonne Stickney in the role of Sister Margaret. Ms. Stickney was recently seen in the film "Die Hard With a Vengeance" starring Bruce Willis. Originally produced on Broadway in 1965, "The Amen Corner" deals with the concerns of today's African-American family. It celebrates the sound of contemporary gospel music and combines the sounds of jazz and Hip Hop. For tickets, contact Crossroads Theatre box office at (908) 249-5560.

ARTZ/ENTERTAINMENT

Camille Billops at Ajira

NEWARK—The Minstrel Series, a body of works by Camille Billops, will be on display at Ajira Center for Contemporary Art (ACCA) from January 12 through February 21. Works include Who's Dat Nigga a Peepin', A Fine Old Colored Gentlemen, and a collection of mirrored framed works.

In using a variety of materials from pencil-on-paper to spectra colors on arches paper, Camille reveals the minstrel phenomenon/impersonator of yesterday and today.

Ms. Billops is a filmmaker, ceramic sculptor, and printmaker, who studied at the University of Southern California, California State College, and City College of New York. She has had one-woman exhibitions at the University of North Carolina, Clark College

in Atlanta, Southeast Arkansas Arts and Science Center, The Bronx Mu-

seum of Art, Foto-Falle Gallery and Amerika Haus in Hamburg, West Germany, and Gallerie Akhenaten in Cairo, Egypt.

The show, curated by Carl F. Hazlewood, co-founder of Ajira's exhibition program, will occupy Ajira's Gallery II located on the fourth floor at Two Washington Place in downtown Newark.

The impetus for Camille Billops as printmaker, sculptor, filmmaker and visual artist began in early childhood. Fascinated with puppets, puppet show or just copying drawings of Hernando Cortez, she developed a passion for the arts. Her parents had a tremendous influence in her development as an artist. Her father, who was a businessman, had a tremendous influence in her development as an artist. Her father, who was a businessman, had a tremendous influence in her development as an artist.



Parade of stars shine

HARLEM, NY—Television viewers across the nation can expect another dose of star-studded entertainment as *The Lou Rawls Parade of Stars* kicks off on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., to benefit The College Fund/UNCF.

Staged at *The Palace in Hollywood* and at the historic *Apollo Theater* in New York City, the *Parade* will be hosted by Sheryl Lee Ralph and David Baywatch Hasselhoff in Hollywood, and Peabo Bryson, in New York City.

This weekend's efforts hope to

exceed the current fund-raising total of \$144 million in cash and pledges since its inception in 1979.

Performers during the event include: Blackstreet, Take 6, Terin Campbell, Jody Watley, Keith Sweat, Jennifer Holliday, Isley Brothers, C.C. Peniston, Ann Nesby, Maxi Priest, Shaggy, Norman Brown, Deborah Cox, Dr. Hill, Eric Benet Band, For Real, The Braxtons, cast of Smokey Joe's Cafe, Shirley Caesar, Soul 4 Real, Wendy Williams for New York's Hot 97.1 FM, and other top performers.

The *Lou Rawls Parade of Stars* is made possible with the support of its national and founding sponsor, Amstar-Busch Companies Inc. Other sponsors include: Kellogg's *Frsted Flakes*, American Airlines, an associate sponsor, will underwrite the "Fly Away Challenge." Extra-Strength Tylenol is a contributing sponsor, and HBO Men's Wearhouse, E Style from Ebony & Spiegel and Nationsbank are contributing co-sponsors.

Other participating sponsors are Avon, Eckerd/American Health & Beauty Aids Institute and General Motors Corporation. Special support for the television special is also provided by American Urban Radio Networks, The McDonald's Corporation and the Eight-Street Outdoor Advertising Association.

Since the founding of The College Fund in 1944, more than 300,000

Parade of Stars performers, Blackstreet



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Just Out



Walter Cronkite and John F. Kennedy

TV

Walter Cronkite looks back at a lifetime of covering the pivotal events of our times when the eight-part, intimate television memoir *Cronkite Remembers*, Thursdays in January from 10-11 p.m.



Paul Winfield (left), plays Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cicely Tyson (right), plays Coretta Scott King

Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, host of the African Heritage Movie Network (AHN) *Movie of the Month* series kick off 1997 with the national broadcast of *King*, a powerful drama capturing the last week of the late civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King's life. In a two-night broadcast, *King*, can be seen on WABC-Channel 7, January 14 and 15, at 12:05 a.m.

BOOKS

Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice
by April Sinclair
An Avon Trade Paperback Reprint; \$12.00

April Sinclair's first novel, *Coffee Will Make You Black*, introduced readers to Jean "Stevie" Stevenson, a tough-talking, irresistible African-American girl growing up on Chicago's South Side. *Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice*, Sinclair's second book, picks up with Stevie's life in college. She heads to San Francisco and experiences free love, drugs, vegetarianism, disco, positive energy, women's bars, and hot tubs.



EDDIE MURPHY

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Business Calendar


MONDAY, JANUARY 13

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Middlesex Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners will hold its chapter dinner meeting at the New Brunswick Hyatt Regency at 5:15 p.m. Reservation for this dinner meeting are due by January 9. For more info call 908-940-6980.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, '97

RARITAN—The Tribute to Women and Industry (TWIN) Program of Central New Jersey announces its "Women in Management" discussion group series. The Ortho McNeil Pharmaceutical discussions group on the topic "Issues Affecting Women in a Global Corporate Environment" will be at 1000 U.S. Highway 202. Registration is required. For more info call 908-756-3636.

Procrastination: conquering the inner demon


by Odette Pollar

Do you find yourself waiting until the last minute to finish a critical document for training? Are classes often scheduled and announced just in the nick of time? Is the production of your training calendar a quarterly nightmare? If you recognize any of these scenarios, procrastination may be sneaking into your life, stealing valuable time and eroding your productivity.

Procrastination is the habitual delay in starting or seeing a task through to conclusion. But is this always a bad thing to do? The word "habitual" is the key. Most of us procrastinate to varying degrees. Occasional delay on less important tasks that have no harmful effects to you or to others is no problem. However, once delay becomes a habit and creeps into all areas of your life, it undermines your ability to function effectively. The seductiveness of procrastination

Procrastination is seductive because there are short-term positive rewards that come from putting things off. When you have too much to do, deciding not to do any of them can reduce the immediate tension and stress you were feeling. There is a natural tendency to avoid unpleasant things. Putting them off (even though you will have to do them later) means, at the very least, that you do not have to face them right now. Plus, if you are lucky, they will go away or someone else will do it.

Procrastination can also be exciting. It causes crises and the adrenaline rush that goes along with them. Waiting until the last possible minute is really similar to pitting yourself against the odds. You are gambling that not only will you win over stress, fear, hunger and fatigue, but that the copier will arrive on time, the other person is not out back, and that the tire will not go flat as you race to your 8:00 o'clock meeting. When you make it, you probably feel high and slightly euphoric.

These are intense feelings, much more so than the quiet, calm satisfaction produced when the project is completed early.

Waiting until the last minute to start a difficult task can also be used as a defense for poor performance. You can always claim that it would have been better had there been more time. It can shield you from the consequences that you expect to occur after the project is completed. For example, not accepting a high visibility assignment will shield you from the consequences of a) being in the limelight and possibly failing or b) doing well and being offered more challenge than you can handle.

BEAKING THE CYCLE

Intending to overcome procrastination does not decide all at once that you will never do it again. That is like deciding to climb Mount Everest next week without ever having been to the climbing. Be reasonable and be fair to yourself. Start slowly. Give yourself time to break a habit that has become ingrained and automatic.

For a large, complicated or consuming project such as formulating a budget, writing a new pro-

cess, not just at the completion. Rewards can be anything you like to do. They can be simple and inexpensive, but they should be things that are important to you. Reading for pleasure, relaxing, participating in sports, or taking a nap, or going to dinner, and exercising can all be used as rewards. At work, doing the portion of your job that you find enjoyable can be a reward. If you regularly work overtime, go home on time, or take a lunch break instead of eating in a rush at your desk.

When you find yourself blocked, unable to start a task and you have tried everything else, ask yourself: "Is there anything, no matter how small, that I am willing to do?"

When you find that small thing, you are no longer procrastinating.

Odette Pollar is a nationally known speaker, author, and consultant. She specializes in helping individuals and small businesses increase productivity. She is the author of *23 Habits: her most recent, 365 Ways to Simplify Your Life*, her most recent, 365 Ways to Simplify Your Life, has just been released. Call 908-940-6980 for more information. Time Management Systems, 144 Franklin Street, Suite 301, Oakland, CA 94612.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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WHAT MAKES THE GREAT

by Dennis P. Kimbro, Ph.D.

Why Buy A Computer?

By Marion Boykin

If you don't have children or use a computer frequently at work, you may wonder why there is so much talk about computers and the necessity for having one in your home.

A computer can save you money by assisting you with accounting or tax tasks that are normally done by a paid professional. It can also thrive with programs ranging, from golf games to online banking.

Beyond the time savings and automation benefits, computers are becoming the primary tool for communicating with the rest of the world. In the not-too-distant future, computers monitors will have built-in video cameras which will allow you to see the other connected party, speaker-phones to hear them and digital white-boards to brainstorm simultaneously. These functions are available now but are first generation, not integrated, and are in their infancy stage.

Currently, you can shop for clothing, groceries, pizza, software and hardware online with a few key strokes. If you are interested in a night out on the town, you can check movie and theater reviews, location, address and show times. Business cards can be reviewed and bills can be paid with online banking services. Municipalities in many cities can be accessed using a computer with Internet capability. Tests for driver's permits and licenses, newsletters will also soon be available online for the consumer.

Some other ways in which computers can enhance your productivity are:

- Stock market updates
- Discussions forums
- Access to merchandise catalogs
- Newspapers and periodicals
- E-mail
- Software for self-improvement

Each day now, more powerful features are added to an already enormous list of computer capabilities. Still not convinced?

The most important benefit, in my opinion, is Internet access, or what I have termed the "WE" (World

Exposure) factor. Taking advantage of the WE factor gives the African-American community—or any other community—the opportunity to document and share with the world, their talents and experiences with their voice. We can define, develop and organize networks of communication, establish international forums for dialogue, and construct models of interaction and experiences with technology development. The field is open to anyone with access to the Internet.

Many individuals fear computers. One of the best ways that I have seen people overcome their computer phobia is to play games on a computer for a few weeks and read Internet access and browse around. You can also ask a friend to spend some time with you during this critical period or take a class at a local college or computer association.

Like it or not, computers will play a larger role in our lives in the years to come. The question you'll be asking yourself in the future, is not, "Do I have a computer but, why did it take so long to get one?"

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Does affirmative action affect you?

Discussing the economics of affirmative action

PLAINFIELD—Corporate employees and executives, human resources professionals, community leaders federal and state politicians in New Jersey are invited to a panel discussion about the economics of affirmative action in the workplace on January 10 at 6:00 p.m. at the Black United Fund in Plainfield, NJ. This panel discussion is the first in a series of educational discussions that will be sponsored by members of The New Jersey Corporate Forum.

The New Jersey Corporate Forum is a network of minority employees and entrepreneurs that are focused on creating a better workplace and rebuilding their communities. As part of their educational initiative, participants will be invited to engage in a series of discussions about issues affecting minority employees in the workplace.

The first panel discussion will include leaders in the fields of education, politics and law. Our panel includes Dr. David Swinton, the Honorable Nita Gill, Mr. Warren E. Smith, and Anthony Robinson.

Dr. David Swinton is President of Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and the author of *Aggregate Personal Income of the Black Population in the United States*.

Assemblywoman Nita Gill is Democratic Minority Whip of the New Jersey Assembly.

Mr. Warren E. Smith, Esq. is the New Jersey Equal Employment Opportunity Attorney.

Anthony Robinson Esq. is an attorney in Washington, DC and specialist in class action litigation and at the fore front of federal and state set aside programs.

Mr. Robert Pickett Esq., who will moderate the discussion is a Former Judge and currently a Kiss FM talk radio host.

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NFL'er Scott Conover visits Shore area schools

by Avery Grant

FREEHOLD—Scott Conover, offensive lineman for the National Football League Detroit Lions visited four elementary schools in Freehold, Neptune, Asbury Park and Long Branch, speaking to students about being successful.

"It starts right here where you are, in this seat, in this school, with your teachers and parents," Conover told the students in Freehold Park Avenue Elementary School, "I know that you are doing the right thing because you are here in school." Conover, a Freehold native and resident, attended the school. "I liked school, and my best subject was math," he said. A student asked if he ever stayed back in school, and he replied, "No, I worked hard and my mother kept behind me." One of his teachers, Mrs. Smith, told the students, "I can attest to that, Scott was a very good student."

Conover also attended Freehold Borough High School, where he lettered in track, basketball and football, graduating in 1986 as an honor student. "In my second year in high school my grades dropped, because I started hanging out with the wrong kids and not studying, because that was supposed to be the cool thing to do," he related. "But thanks to my counselor and coach, they said to me aren't you the same one who told me just last year that you wanted to graduate and go on to college and be successful." Conover told them yes, and he decided to not play football that year and concentrate on his studies. "It hurt me because I love playing football, but I knew if I was going to have a chance to attend college, that I had to continue to get good grades."

He attended Purdue University on a full scholarship, graduating in 1991, with a degree in industrial engineering with honors. That summer he was drafted by the Detroit Lions, and has continued to play for them. "I knew that few people get a chance to play professional football, and I feel very fortunate that I did, but I always knew that I had my degree and could get a good job and be successful."



He carried his motivational message of doing the right thing in school to be successful in life to all the students. He repeated often, that it all starts here in school, and that each student has the talent to be a "good doctor, lawyer, teacher, mommy, daddy or anything you want to be." One student at Gregory School, Long Branch, told him that her uncle wanted to play football, but he couldn't and he is a pipe fitter. Conover replied, "I know he is a good pipe fitter, and that you are very proud of him."

Kyle Cole, at Neptune's Summerfield School, asked if he had ever been hurt. Conover said that most players have been hurt, and some several times. "When the season ends, I will be getting surgery on my shoulder and I expect to play again next year." Repeating his theme he said, "but even if I could not play again, with my education I will be able to get a good job." Rachel Pyle, 8, Neptune, told him, "I love sports and I want to play football."

At the Bangs Avenue Elementary School, Asbury Park, Tamara Washington, fourth grader and editor of the school's newspaper, The Apogee Times, sold him a copy of the newspaper, and explained that it was a

project of the gifted and talented class, and they were selling it to pay for it. Principal Enoch Peters, a University of Wisconsin graduate, a rival of Purdue University, told the students that Conover was an outstanding player in college.

He was asked at every school if he was still studying, and he replied, "Yes, as a football player, I spend the mornings in class studying plays and techniques, the afternoons practicing on the field, and the evenings reviewing my notes. I also like to read and write."

In 1994, Conover founded the Scott Conover Youth Foundation to assist disadvantaged students with scholarships, tutoring, and opportunities to participate in educational and recreational activities. Currently, the foundation is cosponsoring the Monmouth County Basketball League for youths up to fourteen years old. It has sponsored clinics for swimming and football, trips to professional football and basketball games, and tutoring sessions. Conover, 28, 6-foot-4, 310-pounder, lives the foundation's motto, "Life begins today—one youth at a time." For information about the foundation, call (908) 303-7489.

More tax relief for New Jersey

TRENTON—The new year marks the initial phase of the property tax deduction credit program enacted by the Governor, Christie Todd Whitman and the Legislature. The program allows New Jersey taxpayers to either deduct a portion of their property taxes or rent from gross income or to take a credit against their income tax due. The benefits to eligible homeowners and tenants will be phased-in over a three year period. Tenants can deduct 18 percent of their rent paid during the tax year in recognition of property taxes paid.

In the first year of the program, New Jersey residents may deduct up to 50 percent of their first \$5,000 of property taxes, or \$2,500. All homeowners and renters are guaranteed a credit of at least \$25 in the first year if their property tax deduction does not reduce their gross income tax liability by the same amount. For 1997, the deduction will increase. The second phase of the program will allow taxpayers to deduct up to 75 percent of the first \$7,500 paid in property taxes, or \$5,625. The minimum benefit will also increase to

\$37.50. For 1998 and thereafter, the deduction will increase to a maximum of \$10,000. The minimum credit will increase to \$50. The program also provides a \$50 minimum benefit on residents 65 years or older who pay property taxes but not income taxes.

"With the enactment of the full 30% income tax cut plan and the property tax deduction credit program, we are helping our citizen's keep more of their own hard earned money," said Gov. Whitman.

'Ghosts' distorts

Continued from page 1

danger."

Chang recalls how the prosecutor's office did not cooperate in the investigation. After the *Primetime Live* segment appeared in May of 1990, the gun reappeared. It turned out that DeLaughter, the prosecutor in the case, had had the gun. DeLaughter's father-in-law, who was a judge had taken the gun out of the clerk's vault and kept it. But, his father-in-law died before the gun was discovered, thus there was no one to prosecute for stealing evidence.

Chang feels that the white power structure in the south was strong during the Evers trial and did not want to reopen that case. He is unsure of the role that De Laughter played, except that he was the prosecutor.

Chang feels that the two most important things are "that something got done and two, knowing the role I played."

Chang also says that Jerry Mitchell of the Clarion, Myrtle Evers Williams played equally significant roles in bringing De La Beckwith to trial. He credits Evers' perseverance in keeping the struggle going and for keeping original court transcripts. Castle Rock Entertainment did to contact Chang for information about the trial, nor his role during 'Ghosts' production.

"If Jerry Mitchell is not in the movie then it is totally fiction. None of it would have happened if Mrs. Evers did not have the court transcripts. If *Primetime Live* had not been there in April 1990, prosecution would have never taken place," explained Chang.

"I understand that Reiner (Rob

Reiner, the director) is not doing a documentary. I know it's fiction, but I lived the facts. I don't want to see the fiction. It was not a Southern white prosecutor that made things happen," explains Chang of why he will not see *Ghosts of Mississippi*.

Chang is happy that De La Beckwith was prosecuted and that many people will come to know some of the events surrounding the case. He explains that most of his work during the *Primetime Live* investigation was done in the black community.

DeLaughter, in a statement, said, "While I certainly did not single-handedly successfully re-prosecute Beckwith, (my boss, Ed Peters, for

example, did a masterful job in the jury selection process and actually demolished De La Beckwith's alibi in the cross-examination of Capt. James Holly), the movie, by far, is true to the actual events that occurred and the reasons underlying those events."

Those who were privy to Ti-Hua Chang's story may wonder what happened in *Ghosts of Mississippi*. Maybe, Hollywood felt that the savvy, New York Asian reporter angle wouldn't sell, or maybe the perseverance of Myrtle Evers couldn't carry a story line. Whatever the reason, *Ghosts of Mississippi* is in the theatre's recreating history and Bobby DeLaughter, played by Alec Baldwin, is the hero.



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